

**Implementation Plan for Guardian ad Litem Standards
19th Judicial Circuit Court
[Supreme Court Rule 129.04 – Appendix C]**

In recognizing that Missouri children have the right to adequate and effective representation in child welfare cases, the 19th Judicial Circuit provides the following as a plan for implementation of the guardian ad litem standards.

1. The 19th Judicial Circuit shall disseminate the standards on the courts website and keep a copy posted in the civil records department of the circuit court and/or the family court division. Each division that addresses family court division matters shall be provided with a copy of the standards for reference when needed. The Court will notify all counsel identified as Guardians ad Litem of the adopted standards and where they may be obtained.
2. The judicial officer of each division shall select and appoint guardians ad litem for appropriate cases from a list that is developed of qualified attorneys.
3. The list of approved guardians ad litem shall be maintained by the Court Administrator of Cole County Circuit Court. Lawyers currently serving as Guardians ad Litem will be reviewed by the Court to determine if they meet the current qualifications by experience. Any Lawyer not qualified will be excused and given 90 days to become qualified.
4. Guardian ad litem training may be provided by any qualified entity approved by the Missouri Bar for providing continuing legal education training and shall be accredited by the Judicial Education Committee. The Court and the Juvenile Office will host a CLE program relating to the statute.
5. An affidavit showing proof of training shall be submitted to the Court Administrator of the Cole County Circuit Court by the guardian ad litem on or before July 31st of each year or as provided by the guardian ad litem standards. This affidavit shall also acknowledge that the guardian ad litem has reviewed the guardian ad litem standards.
6. The local rules and processes have been reviewed, and no modification in either is necessary at the present time to effectively implement this plan.
7. The 19th Judicial Circuit shall review this plan annually to determine the need for modifications necessary to assure the continued effectiveness of the guardian ad litem standards.